



**Whereas;** finding ways to maintain academic rigor while still making the high school curriculum relevant to the academic and career interests of every student; and, building positive relationships between school, students and families are all essential parts of high school reform.

**Whereas;** the U. S. Department of Labor projects that the overwhelming majority of living wage, entry level jobs of the future are going to require a level of specialized training beyond high school that is less than a 4-year college degree.

**Whereas;** the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) is primarily focused on preparing students with the skills they will need to successfully pursue a 4-year college degree.

**Whereas;** many of the skills required for success in a 4-year college degree program are irrelevant to the academic and career interests of students who will not be seeking entry to a career that requires a 4-year college degree.

**Whereas;** Career/Technical Education (CTE) programs currently offer rigorous and relevant high school curriculums that do provide the skills necessary to successfully pursue the level of post-secondary training necessary for successful entry into those careers.

**Whereas;** collaboration between home and school should be an essential part of curriculum planning for every student because parents are the best experts on their own children's academic and career interests.

**Whereas;** the MMC currently limits opportunities for meaningful collaborative planning between home and school for students who have interests in pursuing careers that do NOT require a 4-year college degree.

**Whereas;** this lack of opportunity for collaborative curriculum planning limits access to a rigorous and relevant high school curriculum for these students; and often creates a level of friction between home and school that interferes with the positive relationships necessary to promote student success.

**Whereas;** the dynamics outlined above currently place many teens at risk of not finishing high school with the skills they will need to successfully pursue their post-secondary career training needs (or not finishing high school at all.)

**Be it resolved by the Michigan Alternative Education Organization (MAEO) on July 14, 2009, that:**

- It is fair and necessary for Michigan to provide increased opportunities for collaborative curriculum planning between home and school *beyond those currently provided by the MMC*.
- House Bill 4410 broadens opportunities for collaborative curriculum planning between home and school and provides families and students with a rigorous and relevant Career/Technical Education (CTE) pathway to a Michigan high school diploma.
- **MAEO fully supports House Bill 4410** as an essential next step in the process of high school reform in Michigan